



THE FIGHT TO PROTECT TEXANS

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

ALL TEXANS BENEFIT WHEN LOCAL, STATE and federal law enforcement agencies join forces and combine our resources to protect the communities we serve. As all peace officers know, battling crime is like fighting a war that never ends. Far too often, as soon as one threat to the public is neutralized, another one pops up to take its place.

Fortunately, Texas peace officers readily repeat this never-ending cycle for one purpose: to keep Texans safe. And occasionally, a milestone comes along that gives law enforcement officers a chance to take stock of the good work they have done.

In July, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) marked one of those milestones when the peace officers in our Cyber Crimes and Fugitive units made their combined 2,000th arrest. And though we are very proud of our successes, we know that those arrests would not have happened without the help and cooperation we received from city, county and federal law enforcement officers, who helped our teams serve warrants, make arrests and hold these offenders accountable.

The 2,000th arrest involved a suspect named Kirk Brandon Muller. He was

recently arrested in Austin after he violated his parole by being in contact with a young female. Muller was paroled after his 1993 conviction for sexually assaulting four young girls, ages four to nine. As with the 1,999 arrests that came before it and the arrests that will come in the future, Muller's apprehension makes our neighborhoods a little safer for Texas families.

The Fugitive Unit works with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and other law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest fugitives with a history of sex crimes against children, specifically those offenders who have violated parole or sex offender registration requirements. Parole violations include failing to report to parole officers or being present in areas that might allow them access to young children. Since the Fugitive Unit was launched in August 2003, it has arrested 1,900 fugitives.

The Cyber Crimes Unit is tasked with patrolling virtual neighborhoods online and finding sexual predators that use the Internet to prey upon children. This initiative has resulted in 115 arrests of online sex offenders

and convictions against more than 100 child pornographers.

Cyber Crimes Unit officers recently arrested Robert Eugene Dobbins. According to investigators, Dobbins initiated an online chat with someone he believed to be a 14-year-old male. Investigators say Dobbins sexually propositioned the purported child, arranged to meet him in downtown Austin, and planned to travel with the boy on a metro bus to Dobbins' south Austin apartment. When Dobbins arrived at the downtown meeting point, he encountered Cyber Crimes Unit officers – not an underage child – and was taken into custody.

From the Attorney General's Office to a rural sheriff's office to an urban police department, the fight to protect Texans is never really done. All Texans are fortunate that so many dedicated peace officers bravely put themselves in harm's way so they can keep children and families safe. So though we may have to continue fighting, with dedication, hard work and continued multi-jurisdictional cooperation, we will continue to win the war against crime.

– September 2010

POINTS TO REMEMBER



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Cyber Crimes and Fugitive units

- 1,900 fugitives arrested
- 115 online sex predators arrested
- Convictions against more than 100 child pornographers

To report information about an unregistered sex offender or parole/probation violator, contact:

Texas Crime Stoppers
(800) 252-TIPS (8477)

Texas Crime Stoppers is available 24 hours a day. Callers do not have to give their name.

For more information about the attorney general's Cyber Crimes and Fugitive units, visit the "Criminal Justice" tab at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.



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